

Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, IWY, UN, IV

SUBJ: IVORY COAST REACTION TO IWY CONFERENCE AT MEXICO CITY

REF: A) STATE 119806 B) AABIDJAN 4715 C) ABIDJAN 5003

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING RETURN OF IVORIAN DELEGATION FROM RECENT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE AT MEXICO CITY, IVORY COAST MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS VANIE BI TRA (WHO HEADED GOIC DELEGATION) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. MINISTER INDICATED HE WAS PERSONALLY DISAPPOINTED BECUASE ALL THE VITAL QUESTIONS ON WOMEN POLITICIZED:

B. PEACE WAS DISCUSSED SO MUCH IN POLITICAL TERMS THAT SOME DELEGATES SEEMED NO TO BE TALKING ABOUT PEACE AT ALL. QUOTING GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET BOIGNY, MINISTER SAID PEACE ONLY FOLLOWS DIALOGURE IN WHICH THERE IS MEANINGUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS:

C. IVORY COAST DELEGATION HAD REMAINED IN THEIR SEATS WHEN OTHERS WALKED OUT WHEN ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE BECAUSE GOIC BELIEVES ISREAL AS POLITICAL ISSUE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES:

D. DESPITE ABOVE CRITICISMS, MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESS IN THAT IT FOCUSED WORLD OPINION ON WOMEN'S ISSUES AND ADDITIONALLY THAT CONSTRUCTIVE WORK WAS DONE IN INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES WHERE SOME USEFUL PLANS OF ACTION

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WERE FORMULATED.

2. MADAME JEAN GERVAIS, PRESIDENT OF IVORIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND ALSO MEMBER OF GOIC DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE, SECONDED MINISTER'S OPINION THAT IWY CONFERENCE HAD BEEN SUCCESS IN DRAWING WORLD ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S ISSUES. SHE ADDED THAT IN IVORY COAST WOMEN HAVE HAD EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW SINCE INDEPENDENCE BUT THAT WORK WAS NEEDED TO COUNTERACT MALE PREJUDICES AND DEMONSTRATE WOMEN'S COMPETENCY AND EQUALITY TO THE IVORIAN PUBLIC. IVORY GOAST WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS THROUGH ITS OWN PROGRAMS AND ALSO WOULD WORK WITH THE 10-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION GROWING OUT OF THEMEXICO CONFERENCE.

SMITH

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